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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we confess our need of Your presence and Your help for the journey ahead. You have promised that You will never fail or forsake us, so we place our trust in You, come what may.

Today, show Your will to the Members of this body in the maze of paths their feet may take. Lead them through the perplexity of issues to reach Your desired destination. Meet them in the thorny questions they confront, through the encircling gloom of indecision, as You open their ears and hearts to hear and heed Your guidance. Lord, keep them from embarking upon a path that is less than Your best.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 26, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will turn to a period of morning business. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes today. The next vote will occur at about 2:15, Tuesday, October 27. That vote will be on the confirmation of the nomination of Irene Berger to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of West Virginia. Upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate will immediately proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3548, the unemployment compensation extension. In addition to considering the unemployment bill this week, we hope to consider the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill and the Military Construction appropriations bill. We also need to pass a continuing resolution before the end

of the week because the current CR expires Saturday night. We also expect to pass the 6-month highway extension bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1858

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S. 1858 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1858) to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with regard to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

WALL STREET NARROW-MINDEDNESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the global economic crisis is very complicated. It was born of both brazen, unabashed abuses and elaborate schemes alike. It brought complex concepts such as "mortgage-backed securities" and "credit default swaps" and "derivatives trading" into our everyday vocabulary. Prior to this financial meltdown, rarely did we hear the words "mortgage-backed security," "credit default swaps" or "derivative trading," but now they are in every newspaper we read. They are all over the television, all over radio. But when we peel back all the layers of this crisis, its foundation is nothing more than a simple concept: greed. When we cut through to the root causes of why so many families are hurting and why so many businesses are suffering, the core elements are evident: excess, irresponsibility, and reckless risks.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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